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LATEST NEWS FROM EUROPE.

A REMARKABLE ADDITION TO THE BRITISH CODE OF MORALS.

Scandal that Sir William Pearce Hoped to
Escape—A Noble Lord's Shame Exposed in
a Police Court—The Duke of Bedford's
Death Attributed to Gluttony—Many
Property Interests in Ireland Opposing
Home Rule—The Crime of the Week—A
Woman Going to Chicago as Europe's Ethno-
logical Exhibit—Russia at Our Naval
Review—The Bull-Proof Uniforms.

LONDON, March 25.—The rather extraordi-
nary addition to the British code of morals,
which declares that a man may confess con-
duct which leads to a divorce without
suffering an imputation of dishonor, has
received a quasi official acceptance
this week. The divorce court scandal
growing out of the concealment of the identity
of Sir William Pearce, M. P., as co-respondent
in the case of *Bedford v. Bedford*, has
developed features which have aroused a good
deal of animosity against the code of morals
among the British. When the fact leaked out
that a divorce had been granted to the injured
husband with cost against Pearce, as co-respondent,
many of the latter's constituents
demanded his resignation. The outraged
husband then came to the defense of his
conduct, and in the course of his defense
he declared that when he had unlawful
relations with Mrs. Bedford he did not
know who was married woman, and in a
negative way he admitted the fact.

It is authoritatively announced this week
that Sir William will not resign, there being
nothing in the conduct which he confesses
which renders him unfit to represent the
people in the national legislature. His fellow
members of the House of Commons have
been in this view, for no pressure has
been brought to bear within the House, as far
as known, to induce him to retire. It ap-
pears, therefore, to be established as clearly
as such a matter can be determined by the
highest public sentiment, that it is not
unlawful for a man to have unlawful
relations with a woman, provided he is
single and supposes her to be unmarried.
Most people have so understood the English
moral code for a long time, but it is in-
structive, to say the least, to have the matter bluntly
and publicly put on record as has now been
done.

The scandal which has surprised the English
public is not the conduct of Sir William
Pearce or his apologists, but the manner in
which the English court machinery can be
used to shield persons of quality. If Sir Wil-
liam's conduct was not really reprehensible,
he seems to have desired to draw the
blinding light of the divorce court inquiries
and newspaper columns. The exceeding
kindness of his counsel, and the
court officers almost accomplished this object.
The *Westminster Gazette* got wind of the little
arrangement at once, and the newspapers
have been making a fuss ever since the
Sir Francis Jones, President of the Divorce
Court, found it necessary to have the matter
explained. This was attempted yesterday,
but the explanation was made things worse.

The lawyer for Bedford, the complaining
husband, made a statement in court admitting
that he had intentionally concealed the
identity of the co-respondent because he did
not think Sir William deserved the unpleas-
anted of publicity. He had not, however,
intended to leave the Court in the dark, for
he supposed the Judge was party to the conceal-
ment. Justice Jones accepted the statement
as quite sufficient, except that he added that
he was really in ignorance of the co-respondent's
identity, and that he would refer the mat-
ter to the Queen's Bench, who would inquire
whether there was any collusion between the
parties to the divorce. Now all the newspapers
are expressing amazement that the President
of the Divorce Court should allow such an in-
sult to the lawyer's suggestion of judicial
connivance at concealment to pass unrebuked.
It is also demanded that the Law Associa-
tion should discipline the counsel for unprofes-
sional conduct. No English newspaper,
of course, questions the propriety of the
divorce, but it is really ignorant of Sir William's
conduct as co-respondent. Justice Jones, by the way,
has been intimately associated with Sir Wil-
liam Pearce, even occupying the same law of-
fices with him for several years.

The modern impeachment of Lord Hastings,
for treason, has been the latest case of
under-the-breath scandal for scandal in a
variety of forms has monopolized public
attention this week. The Lord Hastings of to-
day, though still young, has reached a period of
premature physical decay. The London news-
papers to-day do not hesitate in publishing
gossiping details of his conduct with a
little serving maid whose acquaintance
he made in Regent Park while she
was in charge of the child of her employer.
The evidence against the noble peer was so
complete that the magistrate remarked there
was no doubt of his guilt. The indictment
is expressed, therefore, that the licentious
member of the House of Lords should be
merely fined £50, while an ordinary prisoner
under such circumstances would assuredly
have been sent to jail for several months.

Lord Hastings's name has never until now
been included in the black list of dissemi-
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to rouse democratic antagonism to the House
of Lords. He has enjoyed a fair share of
public respect and has taken a part of some
prominence in public affairs.

A strange and grotesque figure disappears
from the upper world of nobility with the
death of the Duke of Bedford. Those who
knew the duke on the suicide of his father only
two years ago he exhibited in an intensi-
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practically a recluse and never had any inti-
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After his death the duke and his property
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penny he continued to invest by the best ad-
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During the last few years he had become
physically almost a monstrosity. He was well
proportioned and active as a young man, but
indulgence of a most gluttonous appetite soon
made him corpulent. The very corpulence
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exercise at all. Officers who saw him have
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It is useless to disguise the fact that the op-

position to home rule legislation which has
arisen is of an unexpected character. Much
of it comes from new sources of a non-political
nature. It was not until now that many prop-
erty interests in Ireland which consider them-
selves menaced by Mr. Gladstone's bill have
realized that there was an actual probability
of its becoming a law. These interests are
now braving forward a new and formidable
opposition. All that money can do directly or
indirectly to defeat the plans of the Liberal
Government will be done. The warfare will
be made desperate and unmerciful. No one
can forecast the effect of the use
of the new weapons both within
and without Parliament. It must be admitted,
however, that the fate of the bill even in the
House of Commons is becoming ex-
tremely doubtful. Distributing has been
so outrageous as to call for rebuke from the
Speaker, which will probably have some effect
upon the more respectable members of the
party, but the majority scarcely make a pre-
tense of concealing their intention of continu-
ing the tactics which have reduced public
bonds to a chaotic condition.

The Speaker is plainly out of sympathy with
the Tory plan of campaign, and no doubt is
felt that when, after Easter, Mr. Gladstone pro-
ceeds to grapple seriously with the obstruc-
tionists he will receive full support from the
Chair.

The object of the general meeting of the
Liberal party, which has been summoned for
Monday at the Foreign Office, is to impress
upon all members of the party the paramount
importance of giving continuous attention to
the House of Commons, no matter what per-
sonal or domestic considerations may be in-
volved. The Government majority may be kept
at its full strength and the Speaker thereby en-
couraged to deal firmly with the filibusters.

The Tory suggestion that the meeting has
been convened to reconcile differences and re-
store discipline in the Liberal party is ridi-
culous and unwarranted. There is no grum-
bling at the apparent leniency shown to the
Tories, but Mr. Gladstone has only to an-
nounce his intention to put his foot down
firmly and he will receive assurances of the
enthusiastic, unanimous support of his fol-
lowers.

It is not improbable that the Premier will
ask his temperance friends to agree to the
postponement until next session of the Anti-
Liquor bill, the opposition to which has at-
tained really formidable dimensions, thanks
to the money lavishly spent and the argu-
ments ably circulated among the masses.
If no formal request be made, it will be
pretty well understood that the bill has no
chance of passing this year. The Ministerial
ship is now admittedly top-heavy, and requires
trimming and lightening. If the Government
manages to pass the Home Rule, Registration,
and Welsh Church bills, and one or two
more, it will have done a good deal of
work. The Easter holidays are not likely
to last more than a week, and the White-
hall vacation to all appearances will be quite
a brief.

The labor troubles in Lancashire, which will
end by a compromise to-day, take rank with
the great strikes of the past. The strike, which
has been making a fuss ever since the
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It is useless to disguise the fact that the op-

national Conference held at Washington last
year to deal with the Rules of the Road at Sea.
The chief complaint appeared to be that the
Conference was held in semi-private, and that
members were not practically acquainted with
matters which they met to consider, and that
British and European owners of fishing vessels
and trawlers were not consulted in any way.
It seems that one of the rules formulated by
the Washington Conference enacts that when
the Government is asked to consider the rules
which immediately get out of the way to let
pass, which exactly reverses the rule hereto-
fore in force in northern Europe. Conse-
quently something like consternation prevails
among English and German trawlers, because
it is practically impossible for trawlers to get
out of the way of the fishing boats of the
United States when the latter are fishing
down, and if the new rule should become
general the risk to those craft would be very great.
Such were the arguments used at the Fisheries
Conference, and garnished with much strong
language, and it was finally resolved to call
upon the British Government to take notice
of the Washington regulations until the whole
question has been discussed by the numerous
Fishery Boards and similar bodies in England.
The Paris carried from Southampton to-day
the most precious freight ever sent to Amer-
ica. Fifty young women, who are supposed to
represent the last types of beauty of the Old
World, were shipped by the big liner as a liv-
ing, ethnological exhibition for the Chicago
Fair. I am unable to say whether this dan-
gerous company fully realizes the poet's dream
of fair women, for no one was allowed to look
upon the aggregation of loveliness in *Mad-
ame*. The women were made to wear the most
ambitious maidens, and no record has been
made of the heartburning and jealousies en-
gendered by the choice. Even the fate of the
final unipire of royal comeliness is unknown.

Russia will probably make the finest display
of any foreign nation at the Naval Review in
May and June. The Russian fleet is making
a large and powerful squadron. It will be
commanded by Vice-Admiral Kharin-
koff and is to include some of the principal
armored battle ships in the Russian navy.
Among the officers on the flagship will be the
Grand Duke Alexander Michailovitch, who is
brother to the Grand Duke Alexis, the
elder daughter of the Czar. The squadron is
to visit Cherbourg, and while the vessels are
at the French port the Grand Duke Alexis
Alexandrovitch, High Admiral of the Russian
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